

Dear State Director:

We are calling for nominations for the 2003/2004 *Summer Sunshine Awards*! We have revised the awards to recognize the extraordinary efforts and the creative and successful strategies program operators and other groups contribute to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These awards will be opened to the following groups for their outstanding achievements in expanding the program, making the SFSP nutritious meals more accessible and increasing participation for all children.

The expanded groups are:

- sponsors, including school food authorities operating under the Seamless Waiver and the 14 State pilot projects;
- state agencies;
- advocates; and
- special interest groups, including faith-based organizations.

We are encouraging nominations, including self-nomination for all groups eligible for these awards. Enclosed is the application package, which contains detailed information on the award categories, eligible nominees for each category, and the application submission process.

As indicated in the application package, State agencies should submit their nominations, and any third party nominations they believe merit consideration to their regional office by the due date established by the regional office. Regional offices must submit nominations to headquarters by close of business on September 24, 2004. National winners will be announced and notified shortly after the final selections are made.

I strongly encourage you to promote these awards in your State. The SFSP web site at www.summerfood.usda.gov also has the *Summer Sunshine Award* information including a copy of the application package and program summaries of previous award winners and nominees. If you have any questions, please contact your regional office.

Sincerely,

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Enclosures

cc: FRAC
ASFSA
Second Harvest
National Association of Recreation and Parks